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BLACK DIAMOND
WESTERN

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A. C. M. P.

CONFORMS
to the
COMICS
CODE!

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BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

FEB.
NO. 49

3 feature-
length
thrillerstories

starring
**BLACK
DIAMOND**
.....
BUCK ROPER
.....
RED FIRE

LEV GLEASON, PUBLISHER; HAROLD STRAUBING, EDITOR



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BLACK DIAMOND

in "THE MASK OF TERROR"

JAMESVILLE WAS A QUIET HAMLET ON THE MISSOURI RIVER! NOTHING MUCH EVER HAPPENED AT JAMESVILLE LANDING! NOTHING EXCEPT A CATTLE AUCTION OR A MINSTREL SHOW OR A CHURCH PICNIC! NOTHING, IN SHORT, TO CAUSE THAT FRONTIER TROUBLE-SHOOTER, THE BLACK DIAMOND, TO TAKE THE SAFETY OFF HIS .44! YET, ONE SPRING NIGHT IN JAMESVILLE LANDING, ALL HECK BUSTED LOOSE! DEATH STRUCK SUDDENLY AND VIOLENTLY ON THE RIVER TOWN DOCK... AND THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF A LONG VOYAGE OF HORROR!



THEY GOT ONE!
HURRY, BUMPER!

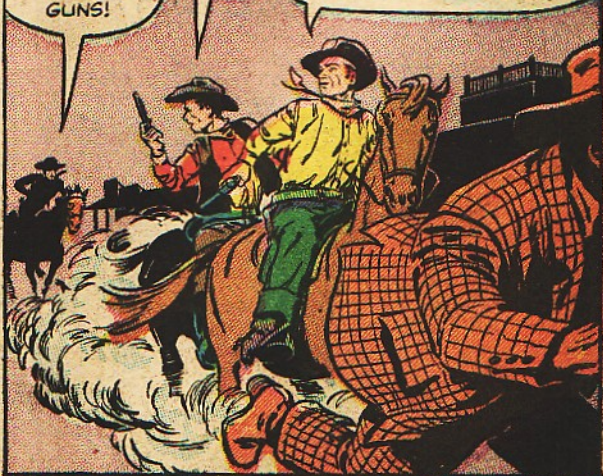
THERE GOES THE OTHER
ONE! DON'T LET HIM
GET AWAY!



REIN UP,
YOU COYOTES!
DROP YOUR
GUNS!

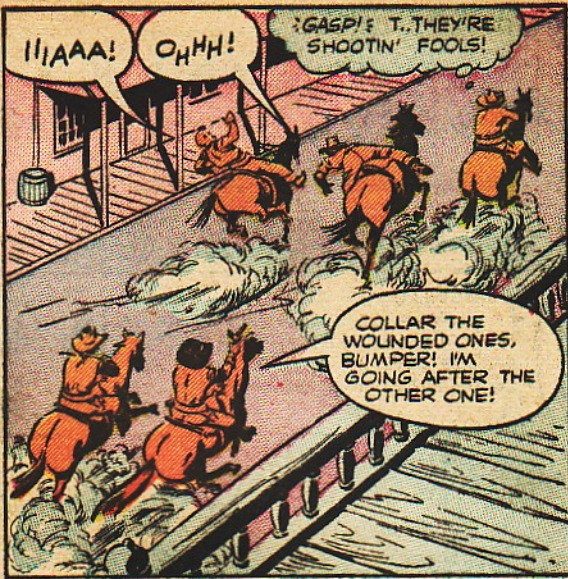
W.WHO'S
THAT?

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES
IT MAKE? THEY CAN'T STOP
US! BRING 'EM DOWN!





THEY WON'T LISTEN TO ANYTHING BUT GUN-TALK, BUMPER! LET 'EM HAVE IT!



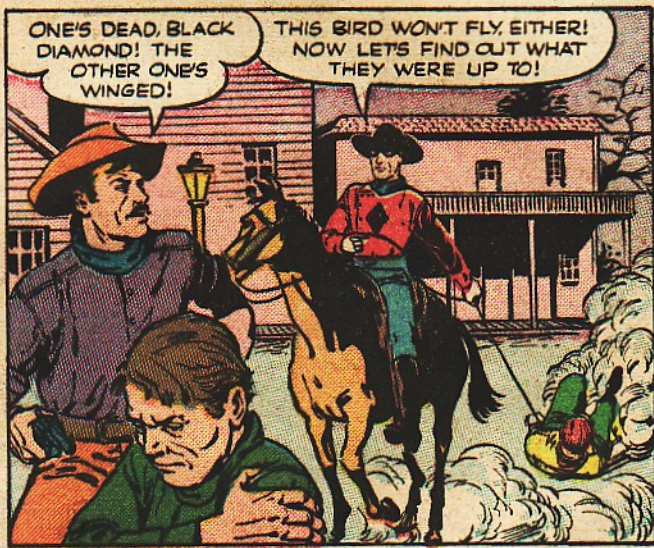
IIIAAA! OHHH!

GASP! T. THEY'RE SHOOTIN' FOOLS!

COLLAR THE WOUNDED ONES, BUMPER! I'M GOING AFTER THE OTHER ONE!



GOT HIM!



ONE'S DEAD, BLACK DIAMOND! THE OTHER ONE'S WINGED!

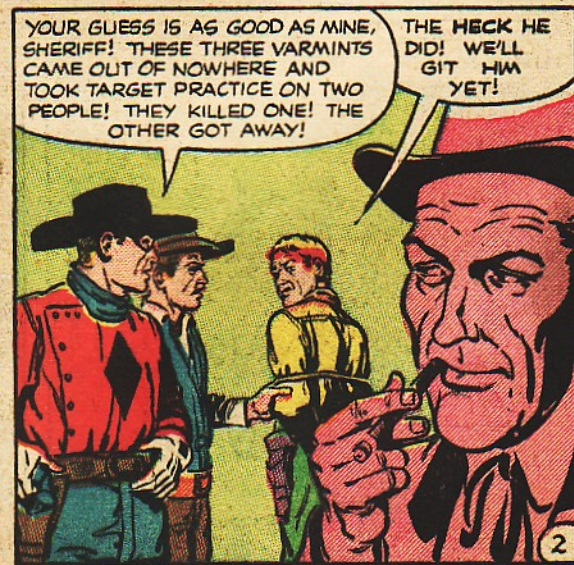
THIS BIRD WON'T FLY, EITHER! NOW LET'S FIND OUT WHAT THEY WERE UP TO!



WHO'S THE DEAD MAN... AND WHO'S THE ONE WHO GOT AWAY? COME CLEAN, YOU POLECATS!

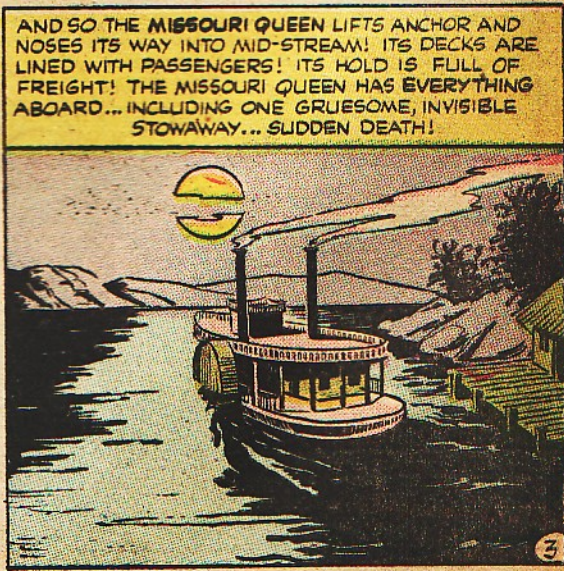
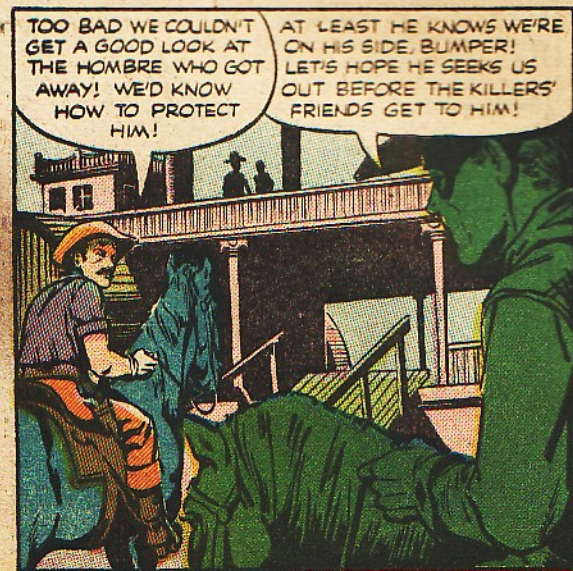
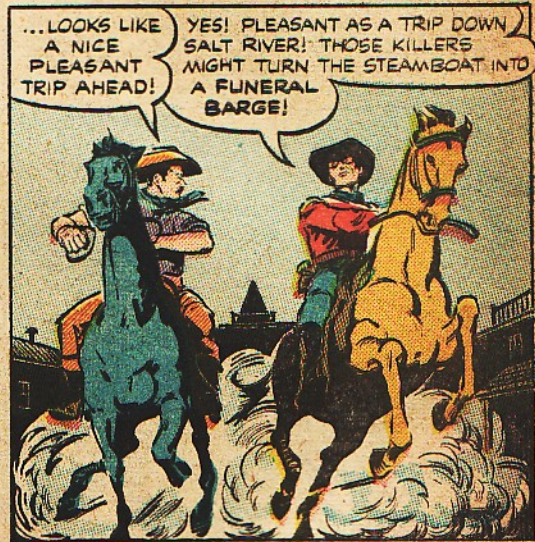
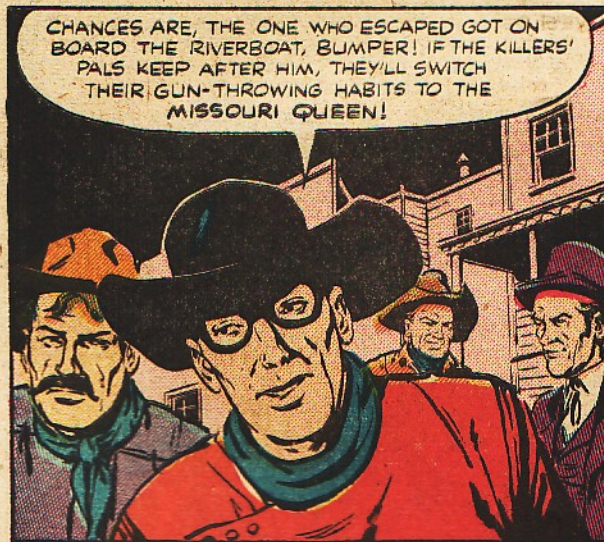
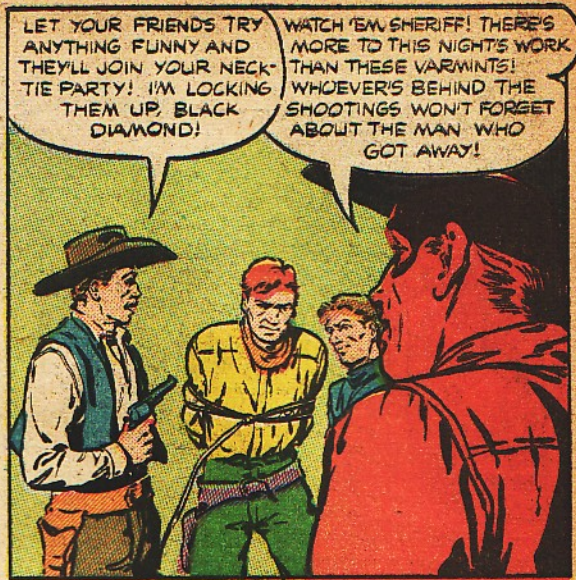
YOU'RE WASTIN' YOUR BREATH, MISTER! WE AIN'T TALKIN'!

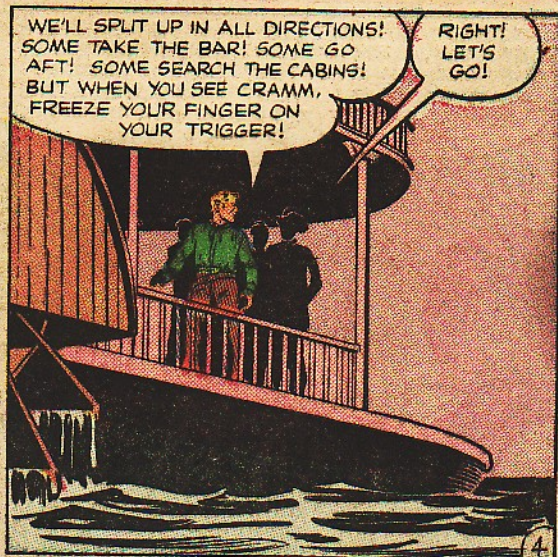
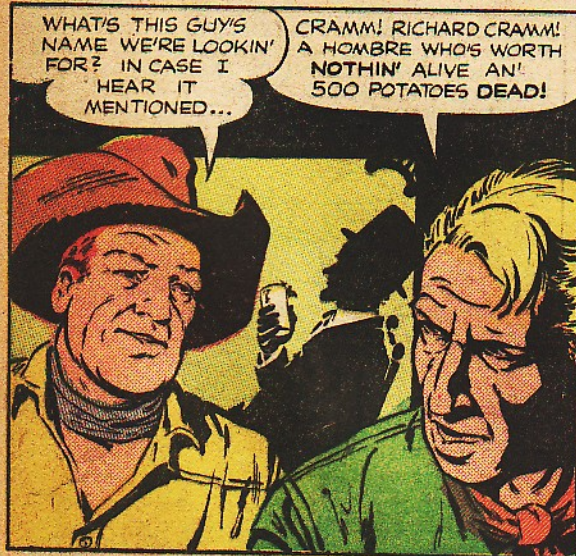
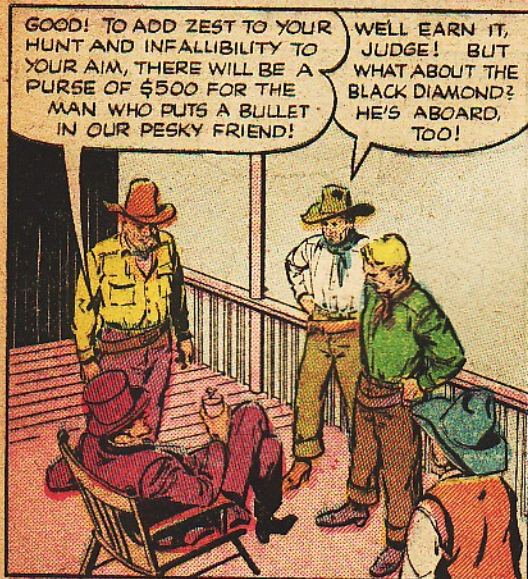
I'M SHERIFF OF JAMESVILLE LANDING! WHAT'S GOING ON, BLACK DIAMOND!



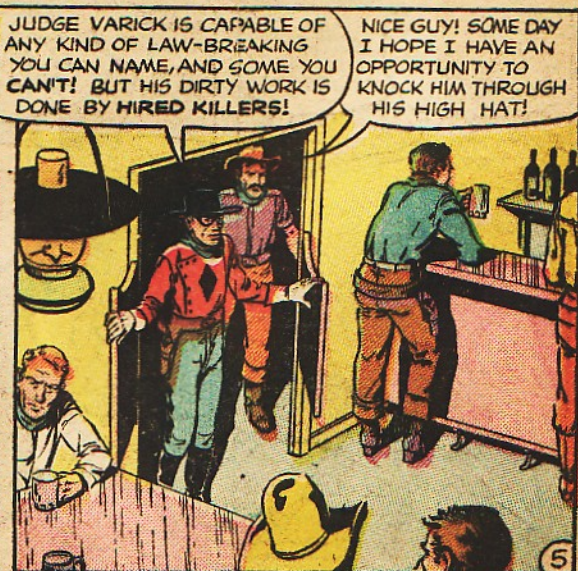
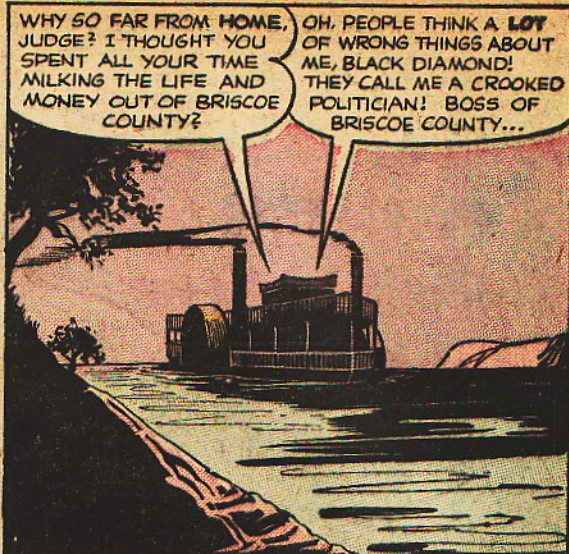
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE, SHERIFF! THESE THREE VARMINTS CAME OUT OF NOWHERE AND TOOK TARGET PRACTICE ON TWO PEOPLE! THEY KILLED ONE! THE OTHER GOT AWAY!

THE HECK HE DID! WE'LL GIT HIM YET!

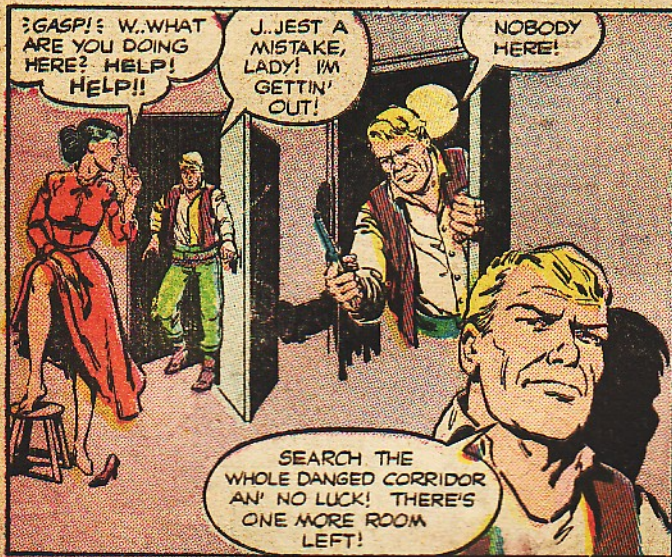
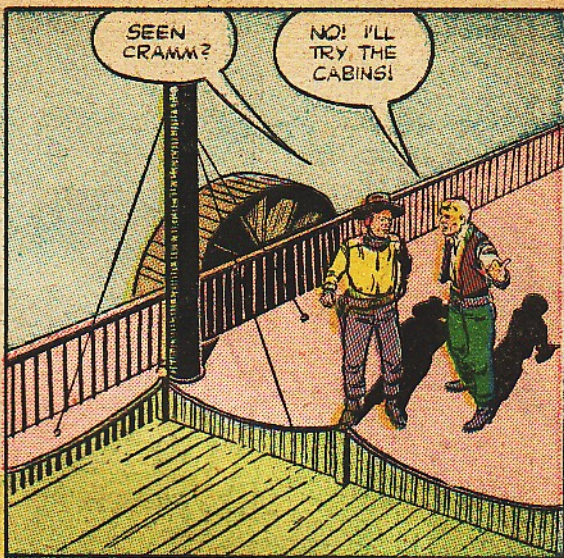
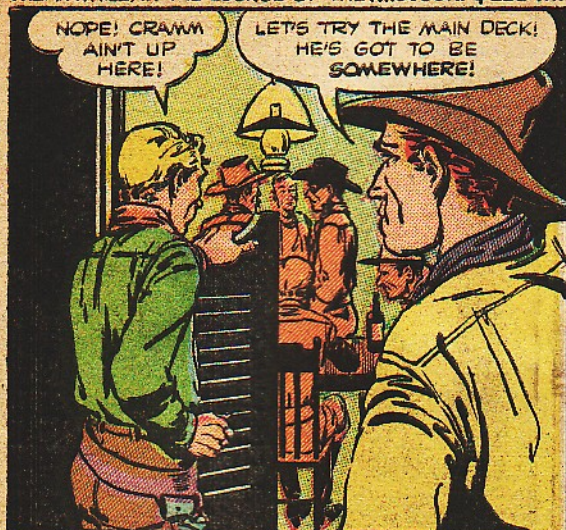




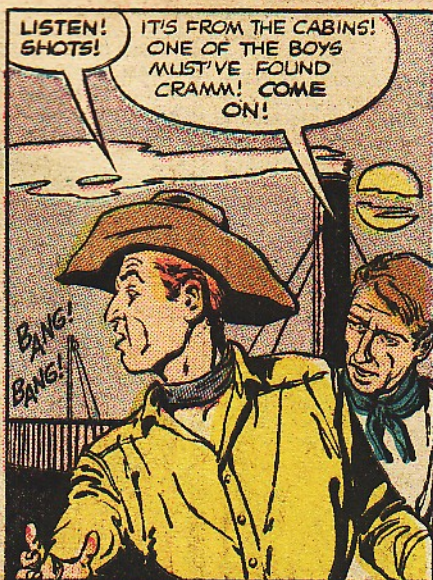
SHORTLY AFTER, ON THE MAIN DECK...



MEANWHILE, IN THE LOUNGE OF THE MISSOURI QUEEN...



BUT AS THE GUNMAN OPENED THE LAST DOOR...





HHM...CRAMM'S CLOTHING, BUT NO SIGN OF CRAMM! THAT MAKES HIM HARDER TO FIND THAN EVER! HIS CLOTHING WAS ALL WE HAD TO GO BY!

WE'RE SUNK, JUDGE! NOW CRAMM CAN PASS FOR ANYBODY ON BOARD SHIP! HE'S OUTSMARTED US AN' THERE AIN'T A THING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT! WE'RE ALL GALLOW'S BAIT NOW!



NOT QUITE! DESPERATE SITUATIONS REQUIRE DESPERATE MEASURES! WE'LL RUB CRAMM OUT IF WE HAVE TO KILL EVERY PERSON ON BOARD THE MISSOURI QUEEN TO DO IT!



WE'RE TAKING OVER THE MISSOURI QUEEN! IF ANYBODY TRIES TO STOP YOU, SHOOT TO KILL!



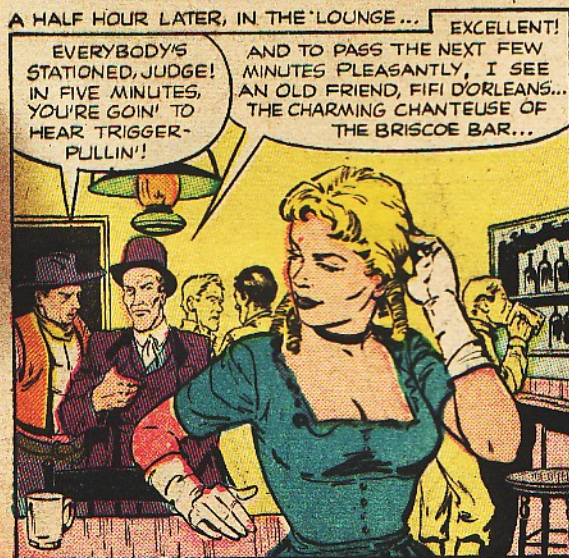
BUT WHOEVER GETS TO LAND LATER WILL TELL WHAT WE DID, JUDGE!

NOBODY'S GOING TO REACH LAND ALIVE! AFTER WE SMOKE CRAMM OUT AND KILL HIM, WE'LL MASSACRE EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD ABOARD SHIP!



THEN WE'LL BURN HER! THERE'LL BE NO CLUES! IT'LL BE THE WORST DISASTER IN RIVERBOAT HISTORY! NO SURVIVORS...EXCEPT US! THE MISSOURI QUEEN WILL END ITS DAYS AS A FUNERAL PYRE!

OKAY JUDGE! CAN'T SEE HOW IT CAN HURT. WITH CRAMM FREE, WE'LL HANG ANYWAY!

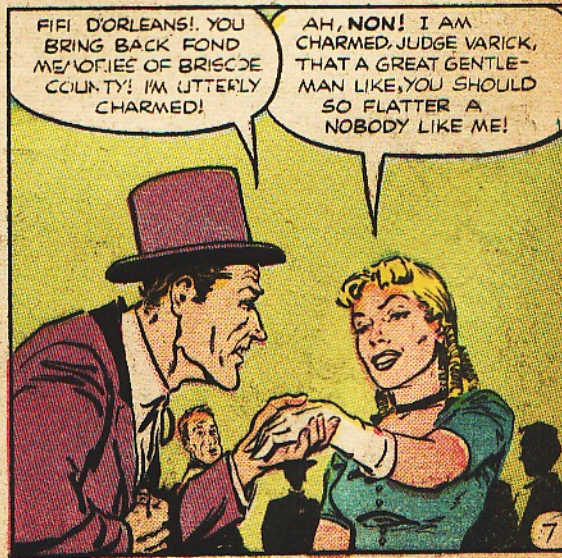


A HALF HOUR LATER, IN THE LOUNGE...

EXCELLENT!

EVERYBODY'S STATIONED, JUDGE! IN FIVE MINUTES, YOU'RE GOIN' TO HEAR TRIGGER-PULLIN'!

AND TO PASS THE NEXT FEW MINUTES PLEASANTLY, I SEE AN OLD FRIEND, FIFI D'ORLEANS... THE CHARMING CHANTEUSE OF THE BRISCOE BAR...



FIFI D'ORLEANS! YOU BRING BACK FOND MEMORIES OF BRISCOE COUNTY! I'M UTTERLY CHARMED!

AH, NON! I AM CHARMED, JUDGE VARICK, THAT A GREAT GENTLEMAN LIKE YOU SHOULD SO FLATTER A NOBODY LIKE ME!

A BREATH-TAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL GIRL LIKE YOU... A NOBODY? NONSENSE! WHEN WE GET BACK TO BRISCOE COUNTY, YOU MUST SING YOUR SONGS ONLY FOR ME!

BUT MON AMI, I ALWAYS SANG TO YOU WHEN YOU CAME TO BRISCOE BAR! BUT YOU PAID LITTLE ATTENTION TO FIFI!

I HAD BUSINESS ON MY MIND, CHERI! NOW I AM READY TO ENJOY LIFE! IF YOU ARE NICE TO ME, I'LL SEE THAT YOU CONTINUE TO ENJOY YOUR LIFE, TOO!

THAT GIRL'S NO GOOD! DOESN'T SHE KNOW WHAT SORT OF MAN JUDGE VARICK IS?

AT THAT MOMENT, THE CAPTAIN AND FIRST MATE IN THE PILOT HOUSE LEARN ABOUT JUDGE VARICK FIRST-HAND!

SORRY, CAPTAIN! THIS HERE TUB IS GOIN' NOWHERE!

THAT'S THE SIGNAL, HANK! LET THE SAILORS HAVE IT!

AT THE SAME TIME IN THE LOUNGE...

HOLD IT, BLACK DIAMOND! MAKE ONE MOVE AND I'LL BLOW A LEAD TUNNEL THROUGH YORE BELLY!

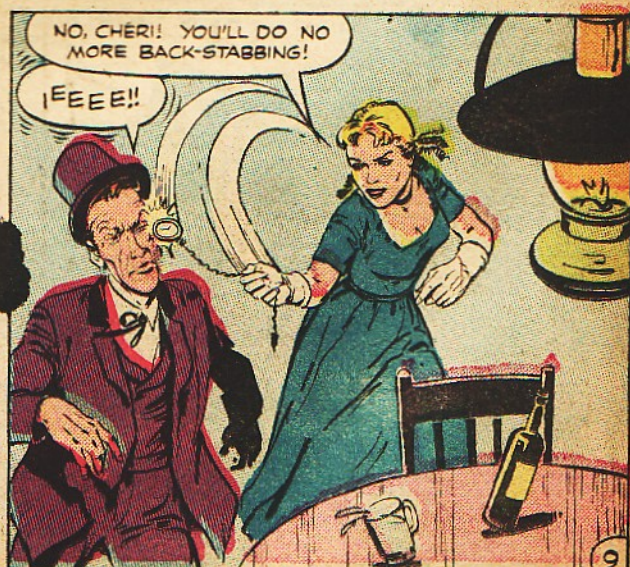
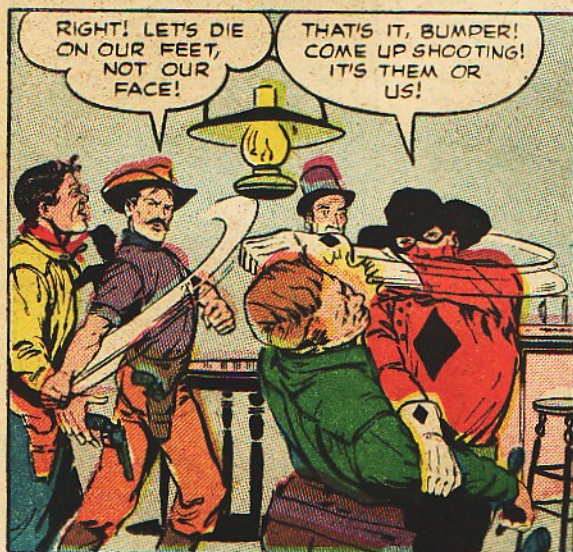
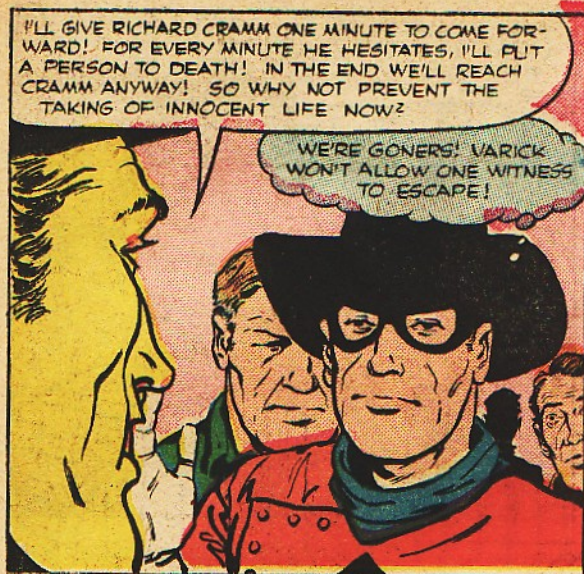
QUIET, FOLKS! THERE'S NOTHING TO BE PANICKED ABOUT! JUST OBEY ORDERS!

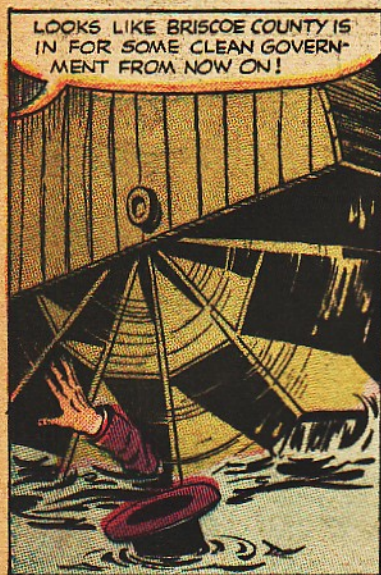
WHAT HAPPENS TO EVERYBODY ON BOARD DEPENDS ON ONE MAN NAMED RICHARD CRAMM! HE IS AMONG YOU!

YOU WERE RIGHT, BLACK DIAMOND! JUDGE VARICK IS MIXED UP IN THE SHOOTING!

THANKS TO A FEW WELL-CHOSEN, DEADLY SHOTS MY MEN ARE IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE SHIP! BUT THE SLAUGHTER WON'T END THERE! I INTEND TO KILL EVERYBODY ABOARD UNLESS RICHARD CRAMM SURRENDERS HIMSELF!

AND IF CRAMM DOES REVEAL HIMSELF, THE SLAUGHTER WILL HAPPEN ANYWAY!





The End

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BUCK ROPER IN "DANGER At Deadman's Chasm"

C'MON,
FRISCO! OUR
PARTNER'S IN TROUBLE!
IT'S UP TO US TO
GET RID OF BUCK
ROPER!



IT'S DIFFICULT ENOUGH FOR AN EASTERNER TO TRY TO MAKE GOOD AS A RODEO RIDER BUT WHEN THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE HILL RODEO RESTS ON HIS SHOULDERS, IT SEEMS LIKE A BURDEN MUCH TOO HEAVY FOR EVEN THE COURAGEOUS AND AMBITIOUS BUCK ROPER!

FINISHING A WEEK'S PERFORMANCE AT DAWSON CITY, THE HILL RODEO PLAYS TO ANOTHER CAPACITY AUDIENCE...

EVEN THOUGH THE TRIPLE STAR RODEO IS FOLLOWING US ALL AROUND, IT SHORE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HURTING OUR BUSINESS ANY, MR. HILL!

I GIVE THE BIGGEST PRIZES AND THAT BRINGS ME THE TOP PERFORMERS, HAWKES! WHEN YOU'VE GOT THEM, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY 'BOUT COMPETITION!

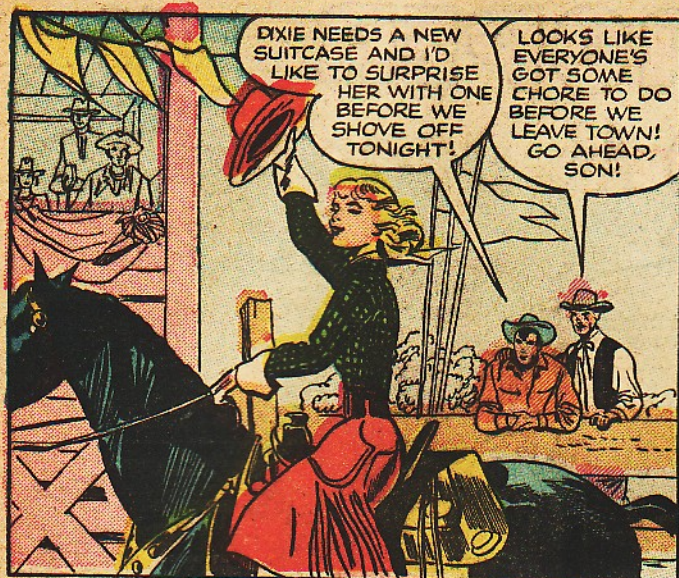


RECKON YOU'RE RIGHT! SAY, I'D LIKE TO SAY, "SO LONG" TO A FRIEND OF MINE IN TOWN SO I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD LEAVE NOW!

OKAY, BUT MAKE SURE YOU'RE AT THE DEPOT ON TIME! WE'RE PULLING OUT AT MIDNIGHT SHARP AND THE RODEO TRAIN CAN'T WAIT FOR ANYONE!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU EVERYWHERE, MR. HILL!





DIXIE NEEDS A NEW SUITCASE AND I'D LIKE TO SURPRISE HER WITH ONE BEFORE WE SHOVE OFF TONIGHT!

LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S GOT SOME CHORE TO DO BEFORE WE LEAVE TOWN! GO AHEAD, SON!

MEANWHILE, AT THE OFFICE OF THE RIVAL RODEO, THE TRIPLE STAR...

I JUST CAME FROM THE ARENA, FRISCO! IT LOOKS LIKE A GHOST TOWN!

WE'LL NEVER DO ANY BUSINESS, CARSON, AS LONG AS THAT HILL RODEO IS AROUND! I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO FORCE THEM TO CLOSE UP!



I'M WORKING ON THAT! WHY DO YOU THINK I MADE HAWKES TAKE A JOB WITH THEM? I'M HOPING HE'LL BE ABLE TO DIG UP SOME DIRT ON HILL SO I CAN BLACKMAIL HIM OUT OF BUSINESS!

WELL, IT BETTER HAPPEN SOON OR WE'LL GO BUSTED! YOU CAN'T GO ON PLAYING TO AN EMPTY HOUSE AN' KEEP GOING!

IF YOU AIM TO PUT HILL OUT OF BUSINESS, YOU'LL HAVE TO START THINKING ALONG DIFFERENT LINES!

I ALREADY HAVE! LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO GET ROUGH! WHERE DO THEY PLAY NEXT?

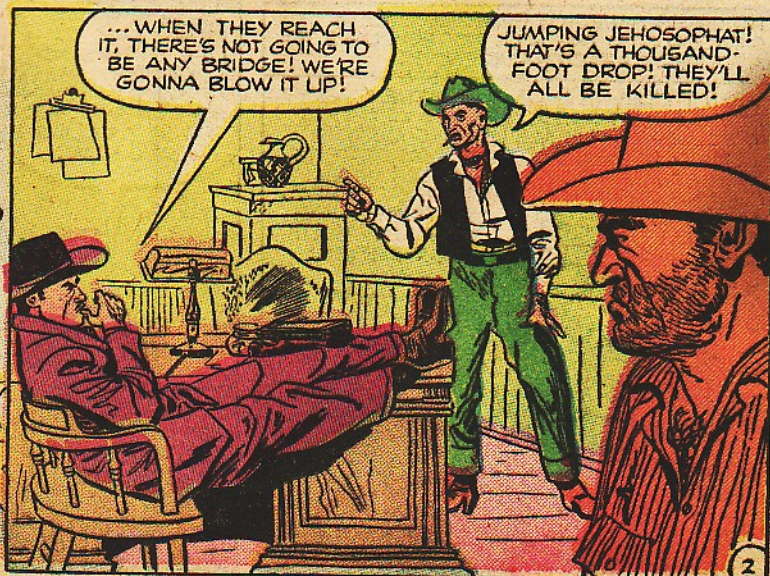
THE HILL RODEO MAKES A ONE DAY STOP AT DRY GULCH JUNCTION! THEY'RE MOVING TONIGHT!



GOOD! THAT MEANS THEIR RODEO TRAIN HAS GOTTA CROSS THE BRIDGE OVER DEAD MAN'S CHASM, AND...

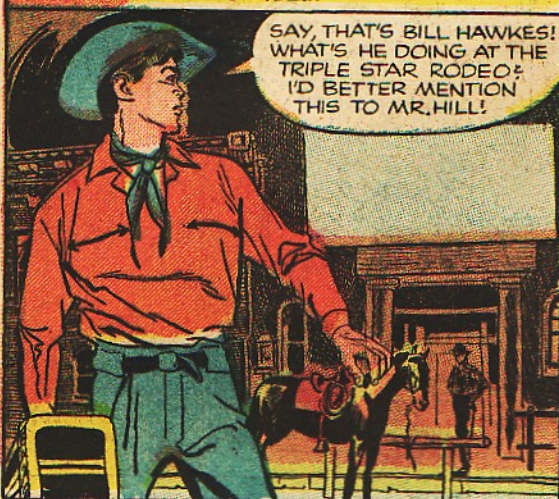
...WHEN THEY REACH IT, THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE ANY BRIDGE! WE'RE GONNA BLOW IT UP!

JUMPING JEHOSEPHAT! THAT'S A THOUSAND-FOOT DROP! THEY'LL ALL BE KILLED!





BUT AS HAWKES LEAVES THE TRIPLE STAR RODEO OFFICE...



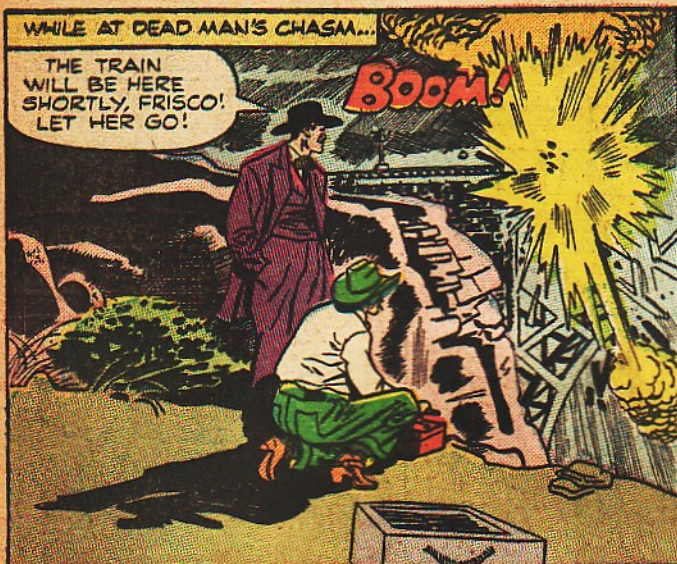
BUT THAT NIGHT AS THE HILL RODEO TRAIN SPEEDS TOWARD DRY GULCH JUNCTION...



WHILE AT DEAD MAN'S CHASM...

THE TRAIN
WILL BE HERE
SHORTLY, FRISCO!
LET HER GO!

BOOM!



THAT
DOES IT! NOW
LET'S HIDE IN
THE WOODS UN-
TIL HAWKES
DOES HIS JOB
AND JOINS
US!



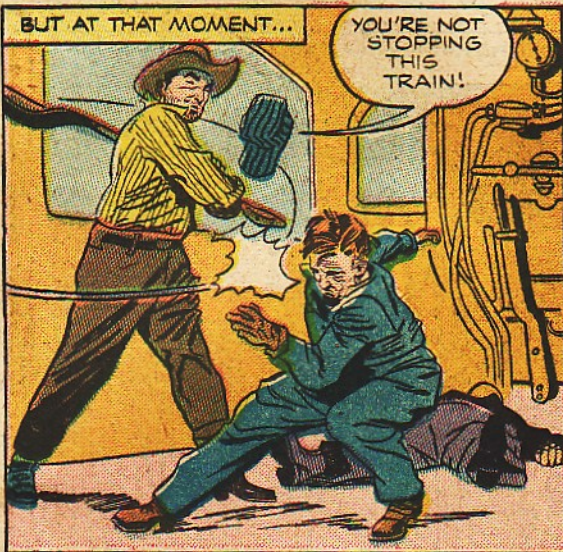
SHORTLY AFTER...

HENRY! LOOK!
THE BRIDGE IS
GONE! STOP THE
TRAIN QUICK!



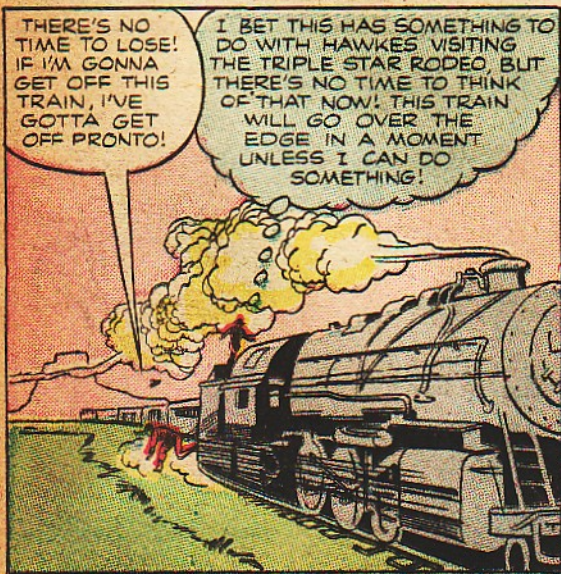
BUT AT THAT MOMENT...

YOU'RE NOT
STOPPING
THIS
TRAIN!

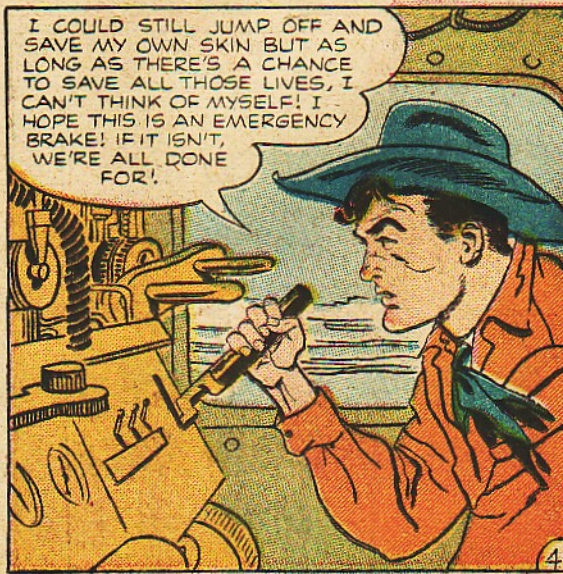


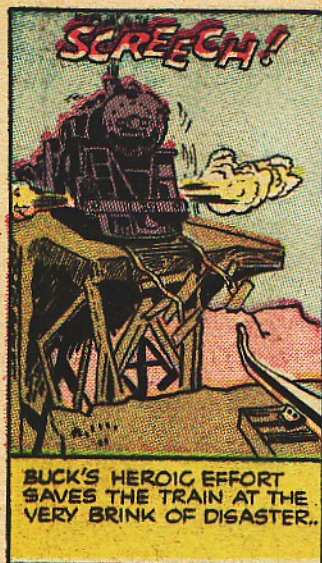
THERE'S NO
TIME TO LOSE!
IF I'M GONNA
GET OFF THIS
TRAIN, I'VE
GOTTA GET
OFF PRONTO!

I BET THIS HAS SOMETHING TO
DO WITH HAWKES' VISITING
THE TRIPLE STAR RODEO, BUT
THERE'S NO TIME TO THINK
OF THAT NOW! THIS TRAIN
WILL GO OVER THE
EDGE IN A MOMENT
UNLESS I CAN DO
SOMETHING!



I COULD STILL JUMP OFF AND
SAVE MY OWN SKIN BUT AS
LONG AS THERE'S A CHANCE
TO SAVE ALL THOSE LIVES, I
CAN'T THINK OF MYSELF! I
HOPE THIS IS AN EMERGENCY
BRAKE! IF IT ISN'T,
WE'RE ALL DONE
FOR!





BUCK'S HEROIC EFFORT
SAVES THE TRAIN AT THE
VERY BRINK OF DISASTER..



BUT THE SUDDEN STOP CAUSES
SOME OF THE CARS TO JUMP THE
TRACK AND OTHERS TO OVER-
TURN...

IF I'M GOING TO CATCH UP WITH
HAWKES, I'D BETTER GET AFTER
HIM! HE WAS HEADING FOR
THE WOODS!

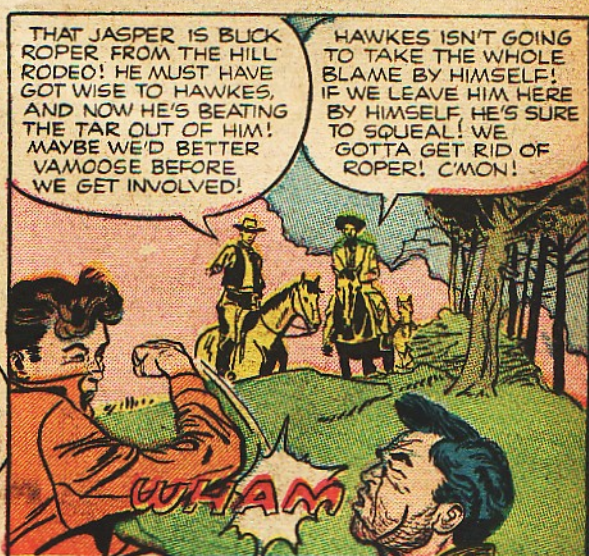


IS THAT
YOU,
CARSON?

CARSON?... HE
MUST MEAN
CARSON DEVERS,
THE OWNER OF
THE TRIPLE STAR
RODEO! THIS
PROVES HE'S IN
CAHOOTS WITH
HIM!

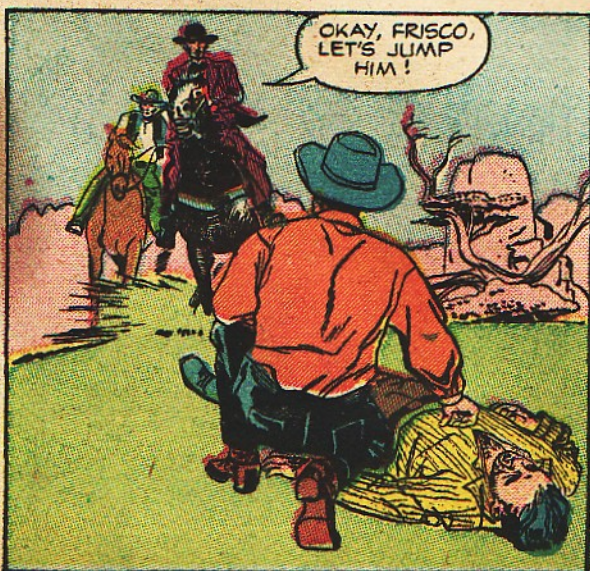


NO, IT'S NOT
CARSON, IT'S ME - BUCK
ROPER! YOU MAY KNOW
MORE ABOUT BREAKING
BRONCOS THAN I DO, BUT THERE'S
ONE LESSON I CAN TEACH YOU!
YOU CAN'T TRY TO KILL A
TRAIN FULL OF PEOPLE
AND GET AWAY WITH IT!



THAT JASPER IS BUCK
ROPER FROM THE HILL
RODEO! HE MUST HAVE
GOT WISE TO HAWKES,
AND NOW HE'S BEATING
THE TAR OUT OF HIM!
MAYBE WE'D BETTER
VAMOOSE BEFORE
WE GET INVOLVED!

HAWKES ISN'T GOING
TO TAKE THE WHOLE
BLAME BY HIMSELF!
IF WE LEAVE HIM HERE
BY HIMSELF, HE'S SURE
TO SQUEAL! WE
GOTTA GET RID OF
ROPER! C'MON!

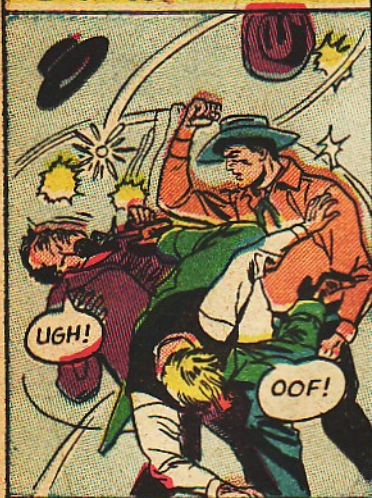


OKAY, FRISCO,
LET'S JUMP
HIM!



BUT WITH PERFECT TIMING, BUCK SIDESTEPS
HIM...

AS THE TWO VILLAINS JUMP UP, BUCK'S FLYING FISTS TAKE ALL THE FIGHT OUT OF THEM!

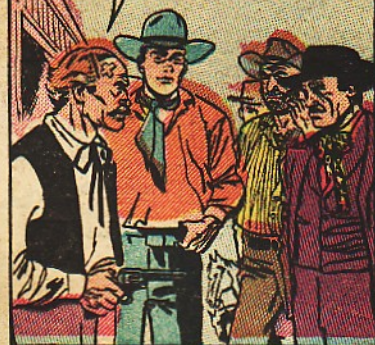


NOW TO THROW THEM OVER THEIR HORSES AND LEAD THEM BACK!



BUT WHEN BUCK GETS BACK TO THE RODEO TRAIN...

I'M SURE GLAD YOU CAUGHT THESE VARMINTS, BUCK, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO DO OUR RODEO ANY GOOD UNLESS...



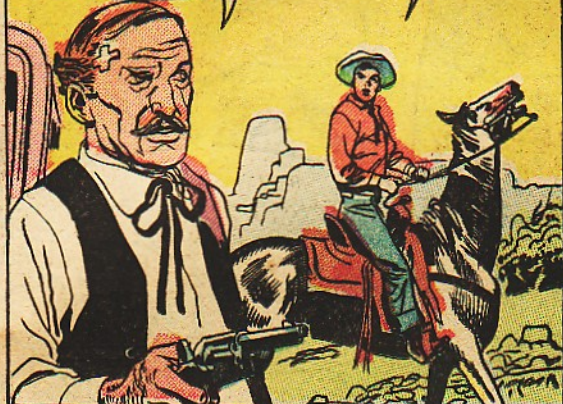
...WE CAN ROUND UP OUR STEERS! THEY'VE BROKEN LOOSE AND THEY'RE STAMPEDING TOWARD THE HILLS!

WHERE ARE THE REST OF THE MEN? HOW COME THEY HAVEN'T GONE AFTER THEM?



EVERYBODY WAS SO BADLY SHAKEN UP, THE DOCTOR REFUSES TO LET ANYONE OUT WITHOUT A CHECKUP!

THEN I'LL HAVE TO TRY AND ROUND THEM UP MYSELF!



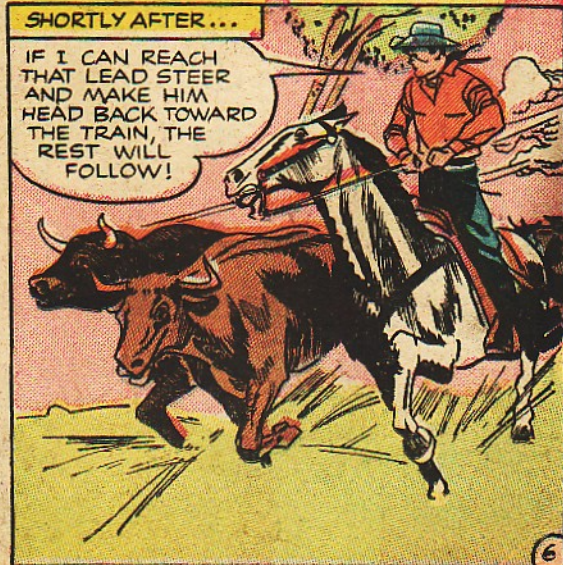
BUT, BUCK, YOU DON'T KNOW ENOUGH TO HANDLE THE JOB!

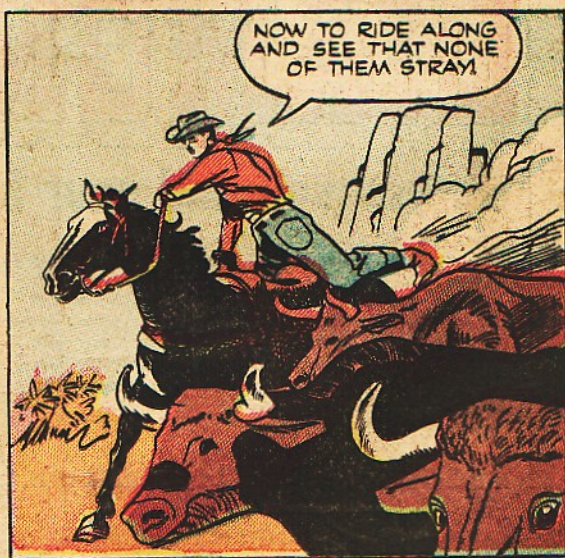
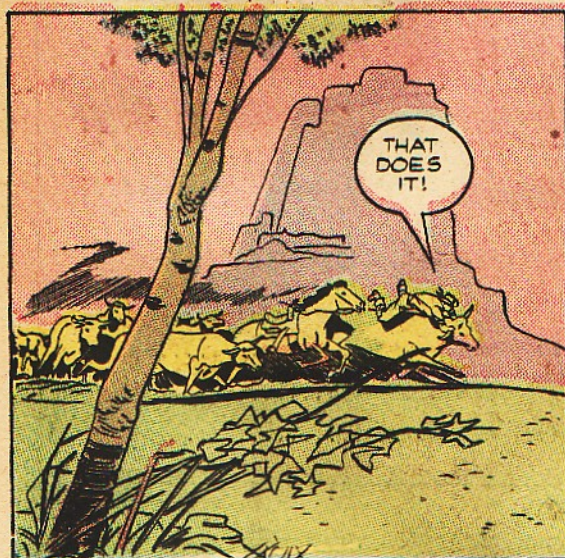
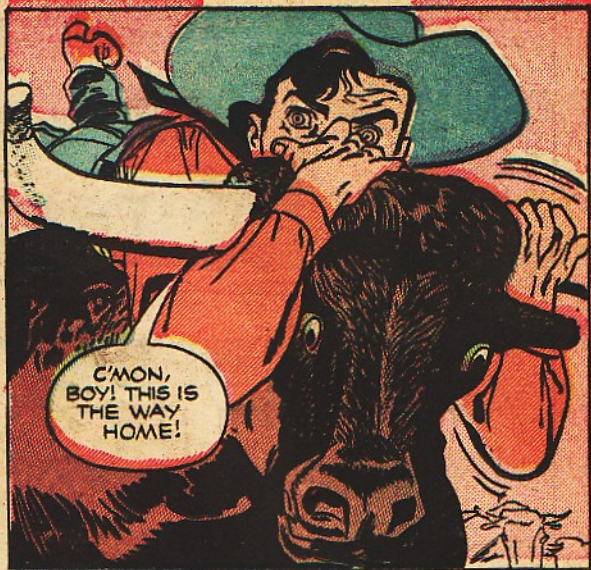
MAYBE NOT! AT LEAST I CAN GIVE IT A TRY!



SHORTLY AFTER...

IF I CAN REACH THAT LEAD STEER AND MAKE HIM HEAD BACK TOWARD THE TRAIN, THE REST WILL FOLLOW!





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Trigger Happy

Ralph Pritchard was fifteen years old, and scared. His wide brimmed stetson shielded his eyes from the sun and his hands rested on the handles of forty-fives that hung within easy reach at his sides. He squinted at a tin can on the fence that looked a hundred miles away instead of the 100 yards that actually separated them.

The guns were his and he meant to wear them. Pops Gordon had given them to him on his fourteenth birthday, and for the past year they had decorated a wall in his bedroom.

"Happy Birthday," Pops told him a year ago, and handed him two man-sized forty-fives. "When a boy reaches fourteen he's a man and should be wearing shootin' irons."

"Fiddlesticks!" Ralph's father snorted. "The boy has no right to wear a gun until he knows how to use it and has a reason to wear it."

Ralph remembered fingering the guns, and trying to keep the tears from forming in the corners of his eyes. "Give the kid a chance, Buck," Pops said. "He's going to grow up some day and he may as well start now. There ain't no better way then totin' six guns to give a fellow some confidence."

"I don't agree, Pops. Ralph will become the target of any killer that comes along. He'd be dead before he learned how to shoot. And as for that confidence, if a man has to depend on a gun, he's only half a man."

Pops rubbed the stubble of his beard thoughtfully. "I didn't mean that, Buck. Shucks, if a fellow needs a gun to feel like a man he ain't much good, but its like learning to ride, rope, and working with the men that makes a boy a man."

Ralph tried to swallow the large lump in his throat, and his father caught the tear that had escaped and rolled down his cheek. Ralph turned and brushed it away.

"I'll tell you what I'll do," his father said. "Learn how to shoot the guns, learn how to draw and hit a target. In short, when you show me you know how to use them, you can wear them."

That was when Ralph did something he hadn't done since he was a kid. He rushed up and kissed his father, then ran out of the room with his holstered guns.

That was a year ago. That was before he started target practice until the barrels turned red with heat. He had learned everything Pops had to teach except how to shoot on the draw.

"The kid's trigger-happy," Pops explained to Ralph's father one day, "but only on the draw." He scratched his head, "I don't understand it. The kid can shoot anything he can see, but when he draws, he's too anxious. The bullets start flyin' in every direction, and it's only by the grace o' God that he hasn't blown his toes off!"

"That's what I thought," Buck snapped. "The kid's too young to shoot. He don't wear those guns until he can handle 'em."

"He'll handle 'em," Pops shouted as Buck walked away, "If I have to club the know-how into his head."

Ralph could still hear Pop's angry words as his hand rested on the bone handled guns. He squinted at the can resting on the fence and he repeated Pop's instructions. "Whip out the guns, count five, then shoot the can down."

He drew a deep breath, yanked at the guns, and counted five. The numbers jumped through his mind, and the triggers sent the bullets flying. He knew even before the dust danced at his feet that he had counted too quickly, and had fired too fast.

Some of the cowhands snickered, one of them guffawed, "Don't worry, kid. You can always become a cook - then you won't need shootin' irons! Haw!"

Ralph turned, loosened the belt, and headed for the ranch office. There was oil and cloth there to clean the guns. His father snapped at the laughter, "Lefty! Come on down to the office."

"Yeah, boss," a smirk-decorated Lefty's face, as he fell in step and walked to the house.

Ralph sat in a corner of the room spreading the oil and cloths in front of him. His father sat on the top of the desk and ignored him. He pointed the chewed end of a cigar at the cowhand, "I've got the payroll in the safe, Lefty, and I want a man here tonight to look after it. We'll finish the round-up late tonight, but I don't want the money gone by the time we get back."

"Sorry, boss, but I got no one for the job. I got two men sick, I got one man with that sick calf"

"I know, I know," Buck waved his cigar impatiently, "but I've got to have a man here."

"Why not him?" Lefty jerked a thumb at Ralph. There was a smile on his lips. "The kid may not shoot fast, but he shoots often."

Ralph looked up and for the first time in his life he saw a steely fire in his father's eyes.

"Yes, why not," his father snapped. "Ralph, you'll watch the safe tonight while we're out bringing the steers in. And remember this," his father cautioned. "You don't have to be a hero. If you notice anything wrong, one shot will bring the ranch hands down."

"All right, Lefty, get your men together for the roundup. We've got a man to stand guard tonight."

* * * *

It was dark out, and the house was ablaze with light. Ralph wore both holsters low. He had found a pair of calf skin gloves that hugged his hands as tight as skin itself. The guns wouldn't slip when he called on them.

He walked nervously through the office trying the door again which he knew to be locked . . . and the window which he knew was shut tight.

The lights bothered him. What a target he made. He turned out all the lights and pulled a chair over to a corner where he could watch the safe, and the door. Sitting in the darkness he tested his gun's ability to slide out of the holsters. He could feel the stocks through the gloves, and the leather kissed the bone handles with a possessive affection that made his heart sing. He let the guns slip back into their holsters and watched the shadows on the wall that moved with the moon.

Ralph folded his arms, closed his eyes, and sat. How long he sat this way he didn't know. Perhaps he napped for awhile and then something happened that snapped him upright in his chair. The bolt on the door moved. A shadow eased itself into the room, stood still for a moment, and then headed for the safe.

Ralph blinked his eyes. Could it be his father? No. He would have put the lights on. Might be one of the ranch hands playing a practical joke. And then an icy feeling gripped his heart. It could be a thief!

Ralph slid off the chair. It creaked loudly as he moved. The thief spun around and called out, "Ralph! I know you're in here somewhere. Do you want to take your twelve shots at me now and stop a bullet yourself or do you want to be a nice kid and hide somewhere?" A nasty laugh punctuated the air that Ralph could recognize anywhere. It was Lefty Brandt!

"What do you want, Mr. Brandt?" Ralph's voice squeaked thin. He had meant to say, "Get out Lefty before you do something you're going to be sorry for." Or, "Touch the safe again and I'll fill you full of holes." Instead he just said, "What do you want, Mr. Brandt?"

"I want the money kid," Brandt told him. There's enough here for me to buy my own ranch, and I'm warning you, no kid is going to stop me."

"I'm going to stop you, Mr. Brandt." Ralph's voice still squeaked but the determination was unmistakable.

"All right, kid," Brandt shouted, "you asked for it. Draw!"

Ralph's fingers slid down to his guns, and in anticipation they seemed to leap into his hands. And then the darkness exploded. Lefty had turned on the lights, and Ralph, with his guns in his hands stood still as the light crowded out the blackness. Then he saw the figure of Lefty against the wall, drawing his gun.

Two bullets exploded from Ralph's guns. His first shot kicked the gun out of Lefty's hand, the second bit viciously into Lefty's shoulder, spinning him around.

Brandt fell to the ground, moaning, "You lousy kid. You lousy little kid."

* * * *

"Told you, Buck, the kid could shoot." Pops chuckled. "Tell me, Ralph, what did you count to -- five or ten?"

"Neither, Pops," Ralph said slowly. "I was too excited to count. I just waited for the flash of light to disappear so I could see him. When I could see him I fired. And you know something, Pops, I'll never forget that black spot. It seemed like forever but it was only a second -- long enough to line up my guns."

"Yeah," coughed Pops, "That's what I was tryin' to teach you -- to line up your guns."

"Come on," Ralph's father broken in. "We've got a round-up on. Let's go."

He turned in time to see Ralph slipping off his guns and shouted, "That means you, too, Ralph." He slipped his arm around the grinning boy. "We need EVERY MAN we got for THIS job. Strap on your guns and come along."

THE END



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SORRY NO C.O.D. OUTSIDE OF U.S.A.

WESTERN LORE

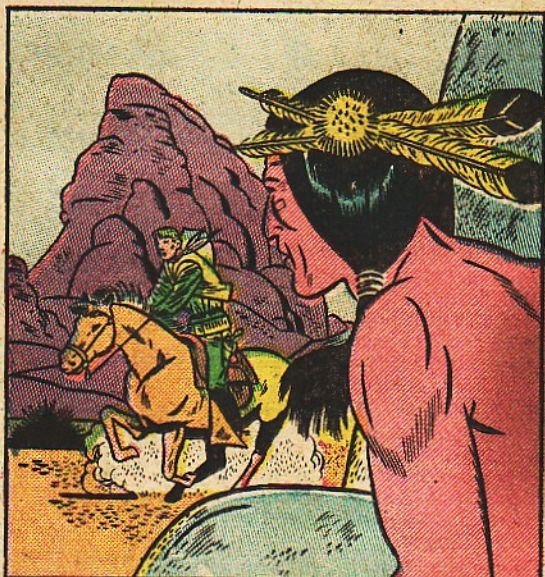
IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE WESTERN BADMEN, FEW PEACE OFFICERS LIVED AS RECKLESS A LIFE AS DID MARSHAL BILL TILGHMAN! FOR TILGHMAN, WHO WAS KNOWN FOR HIS LIGHTNING FAST DRAW, ALWAYS ALLOWED HIS ADVERSARY TO DRAW FIRST! DESPITE THIS TILGHMAN KEPT HIS JOB AS LAW-MAN FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS, BEFORE HE DIED WITH HIS BOOTS ON!



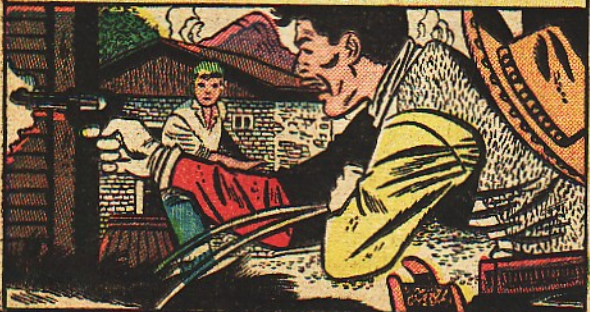
NO WOMAN OF THE FABULOUS WEST EVER LIVED A MORE NOTORIOUS LIFE THAN DID BELLE STARR! HER FEATS MADE IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT SHE WORE SKIRTS AND EARNED HER THE TITLE 'THE ORIGINAL GUN GIRL OF THE WEST'. BUT BELLE, AS DID JESSE JAMES, MET DEATH AT THE HANDS OF ONE OF HER MOST TRUSTED MEN! BELLE STARR WAS BURIED AS SHE LIVED...WITH A SIX SHOOTER IN HER HAND!



OF ALL THE INDIANS OF THE SOUTHWEST, THE MOST WARLIKE THAT THE WHITE MAN HAS ENCOUNTERED HAS BEEN THE APACHE! FROM 1849 TO 1900, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF COCHISE, VICTORIO AND GERONIMO, IT WAS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SUBDUCE THEM! THEY PUT UP A GALLANT FIGHT, FINALLY LOSING OUT TO SUPERIOR NUMBERS! THUS, BECOMING THE LAST TRIBE TO BE CONQUERED BY THE WHITE MAN!



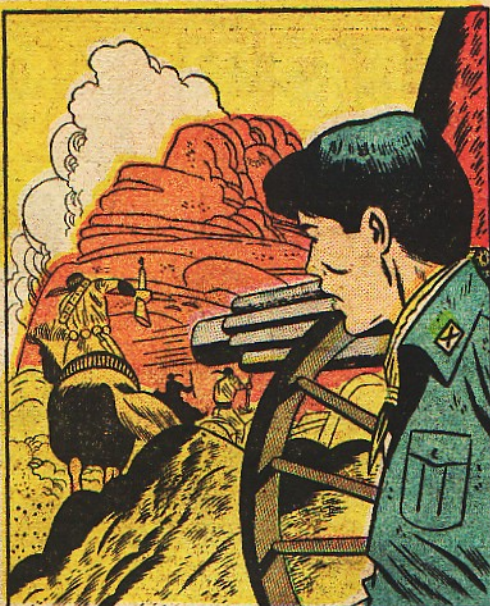
THE HUGE AREA WHICH TAKES IN THE STATES OF NEBRASKA, SOUTH DAKOTA, MONTANA AND WYOMING WAS ONCE CALLED 'THE GREAT AMERICAN DESERT'. WITH THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD, CAME THE VICIOUS GUN-FIGHTERS TO ESTABLISH THE MOST NOTORIOUS SETTLEMENT OF ALL...DODGE CITY! BUT THE COMING OF THE LAW AND THE RAILROAD BROUGHT PEACE AND STABILITY TO WHAT ARE NOW FOUR OF AMERICA'S RICHEST MINING AND FARMING STATES!



IF IT'S ONE INDIAN—BE FRIENDLY! IF IT'S TWO INDIANS—BE CAREFUL! IF IT'S THREE INDIANS—RUN! NEVER SHOOT FIRST! THESE WERE THE RULES FOR THE DARING, FEARLESS RIDERS OF THE PONY EXPRESS WHO FACED EVERY DANGER TO GET THE MAIL THROUGH! DURING THE TIME THE PONY EXPRESS WAS IN EXISTENCE, 1860 TO 1861, ONLY ONE MAIL WAS LOST WITH ITS CARRIER!

"LAW WEST OF THE PECOS"
 THAT WAS THE TITLE
 BESTOWED UPON JUDGE
 ROY BEAN, WHO DEALT
 OUT JUSTICE IN HIS OWN
 UNIQUE MANNER! ONCE
 HE FINED A DEAD MAN
 FOR CARRYING A CON-
 CEALED GUN!

I DON'T CARE IF
 HE IS DEAD! THE
 LAW IS THE LAW,
 AND THE FINE
 STANDS!



FOLLOWING THE BATTLE AT THE LITTLE BIG
 HORN, SITTING BULL AND HIS SIOUX
 MIGRATED TO CANADA! FOR YEARS THEY
 REMAINED PEACEFUL, BUT THEN THE URGE
 TO RECLAIM THEIR LANDS STIRRED THEM
 BACK TO THE WARPATH! THEY CAME IN
 GREAT FORCE AND FOR AWHILE, SEEMED TO
 BE MAKING GOOD THEIR PLAN! BUT THEN,
 CAPTAIN FECHET BROUGHT HIS HOTCHKISS
 GUN (THE FORERUNNER TO THE MACHINE GUN)
 INTO PLAY AND FORCED THE SIOUX BACK!
 THUS ENDING THE LAST SIOUX UPRISING!

IN A STALEMATE BATTLE
 BETWEEN THE TEXAS
 RANGERS AND THE MEXICAN
 MARAUDERS, CAPTAIN JACK
 HAYS CHALLENGED THE
 MEXICAN LEADER TO FIGHT
 HIM IN SINGLE COMBAT!
 THE MEXICAN LEADER
 ACCEPTED AND WAS KILLED
 BY HAYS' FIRST BULLET!
 RANGERS WERE PROUD TO
 CALL THIS TWENTY-ONE
 YEAR OLD YOUTH THEIR
 LEADER, FOR HE WAS THE
 FIRST TEXAS RANGER!



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SPIN IT --- WATCH IT
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THEN IT TURNS UPSIDE
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My order amounts to over \$3, please send me the following
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OF THE PARTY!



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First they'll admire your snazzy
tie - but they'll sure jump when
you squeeze a hidden rubber
bulb and a snake wiggles out!
Drive the girls crazy - they'll love
it. Everyone will have fun - but
you will have the most laughs!

only
\$1.00



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☐ Snake Bow Tie \$1 ☐ Walkie Talkies \$1

My order amounts to over \$3, please send me the following
gift ring.

Skull ☐ Horseshoe ☐ Snakes ☐ Solitaire ☐

NAME

STREET

CITY

STATE

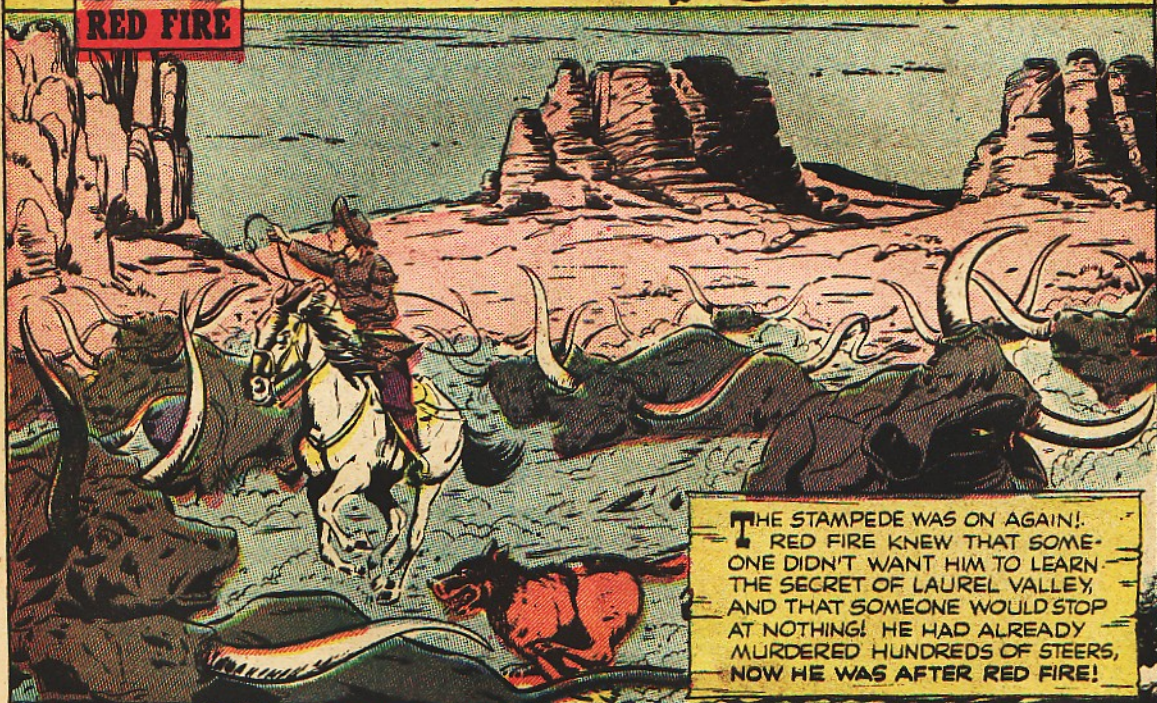
THE STAMPEDE OF *DEATH*



RED FIRE

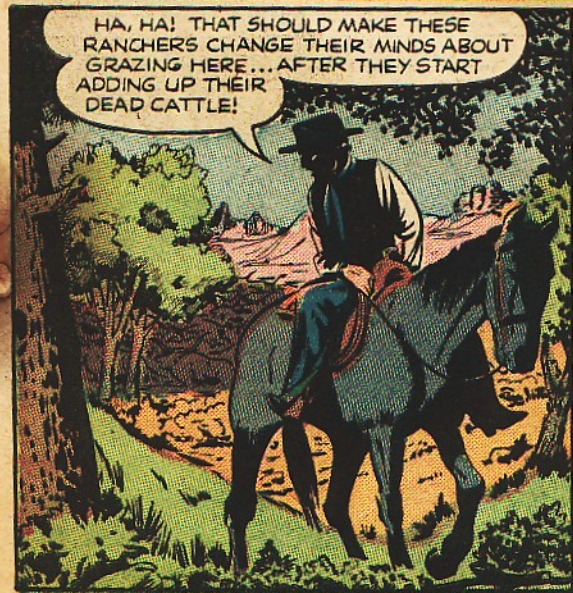
DUE TO A SHORTAGE OF GOOD GRAZING LAND IN WAP-PINGER COUNTY, MANY YEARS AGO THE RANCHERS BOUGHT THE BEST GRASS LANDS IN LAUREL VALLEY, DIVIDED IT EQUALLY AMONG THEM, AND USED THE VALLEY AS A COMMON GRAZING PASTURE. THEN AS NOW THE MOST **FRIGHTENING**, THE MOST **TERRIFYING** WORD A RANCHER COULD HEAR WAS...

Stampede!



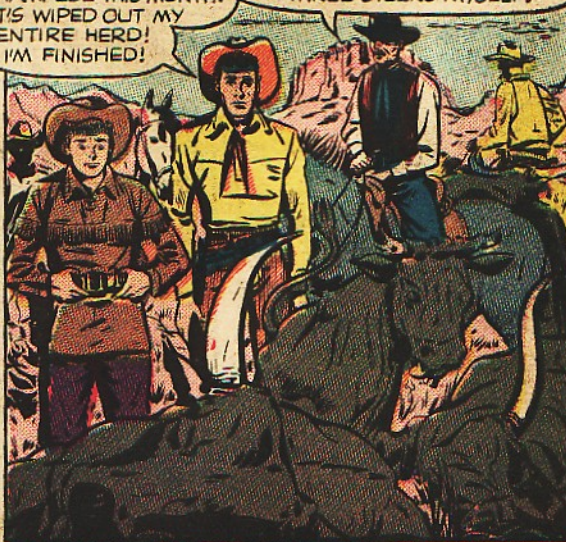
THE STAMPEDE WAS ON AGAIN! RED FIRE KNEW THAT SOMEONE DIDN'T WANT HIM TO LEARN THE SECRET OF LAUREL VALLEY, AND THAT SOMEONE WOULD STOP AT NOTHING! HE HAD ALREADY MURDERED HUNDREDS OF STEERS, NOW HE WAS AFTER RED FIRE!

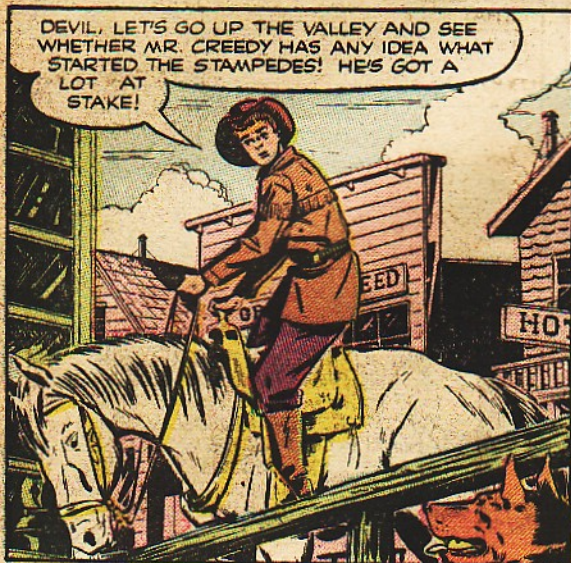
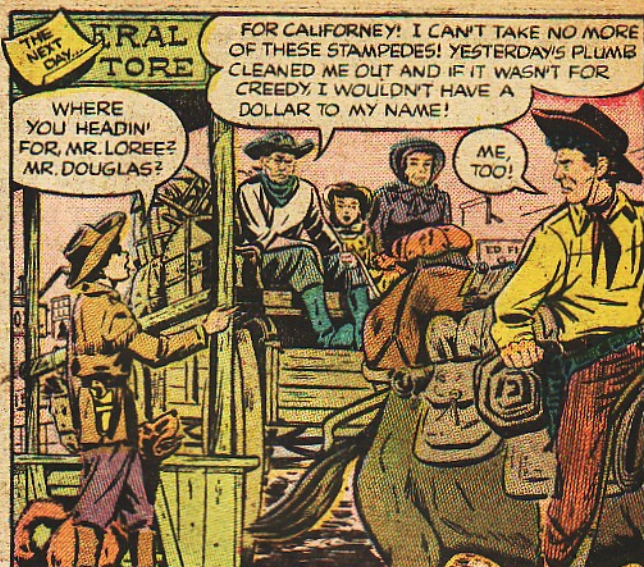
HA, HA! THAT SHOULD MAKE THESE RANCHERS CHANGE THEIR MINDS ABOUT GRAZING HERE... AFTER THEY START ADDING UP THEIR DEAD CATTLE!

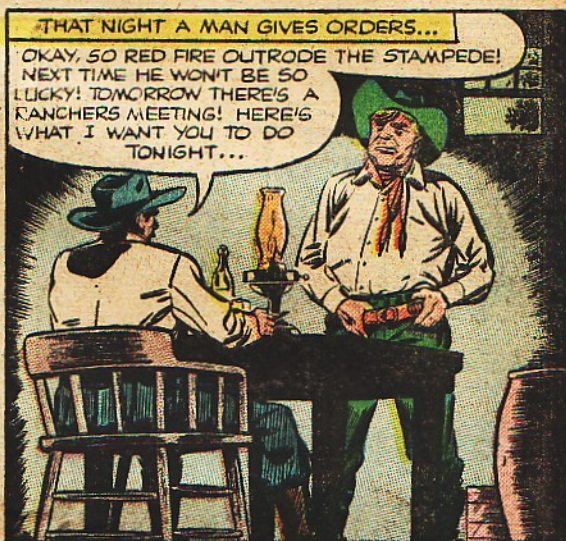
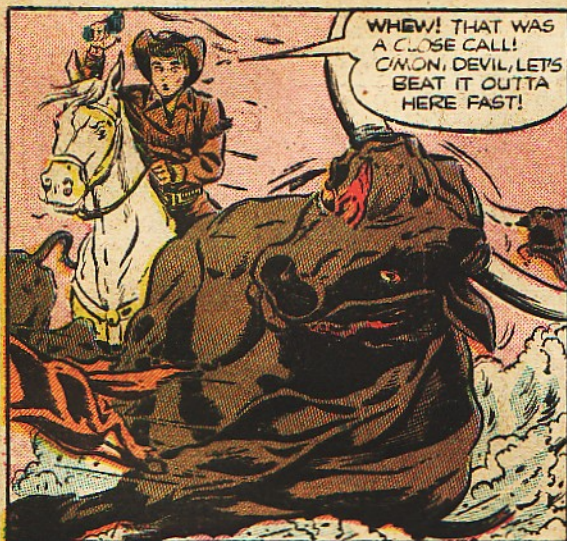
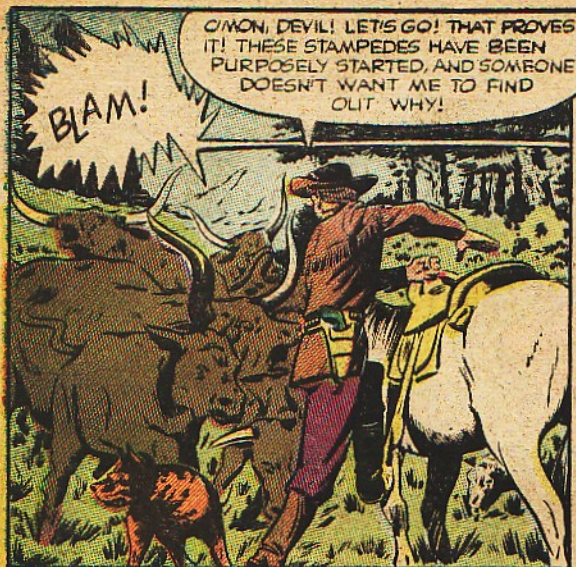


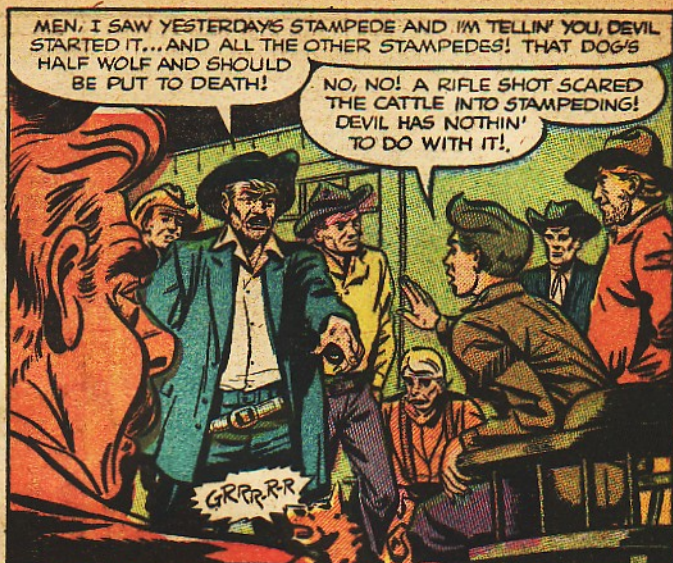
THAT'S THE THIRD STAMPEDE THIS MONTH! IT'S WIPED OUT MY ENTIRE HERD! I'M FINISHED!

TOUGH LUCK, DOUGLAS! I LOST THREE STEERS MYSELF!

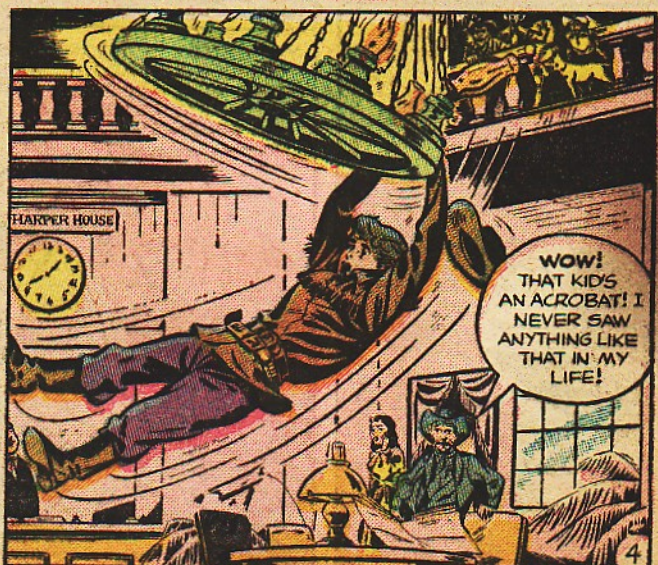


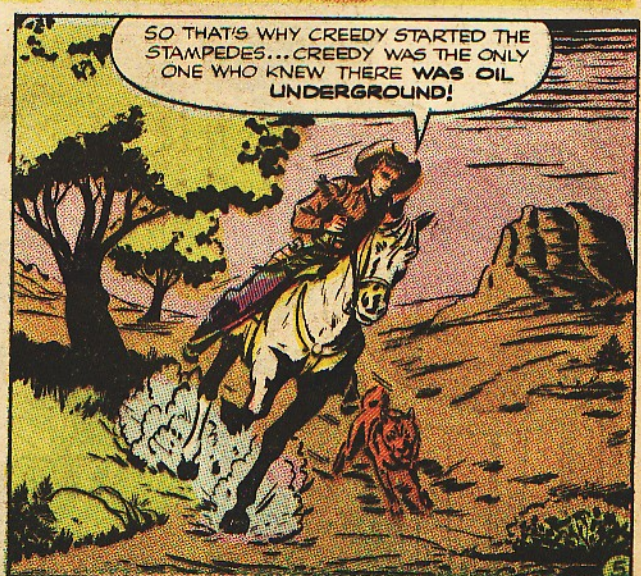
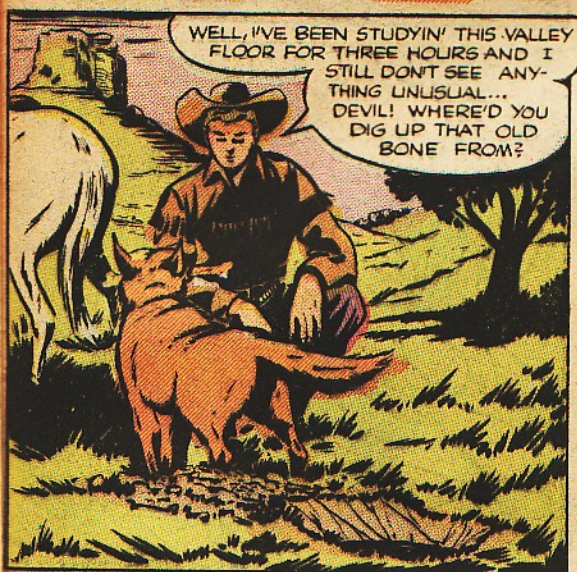


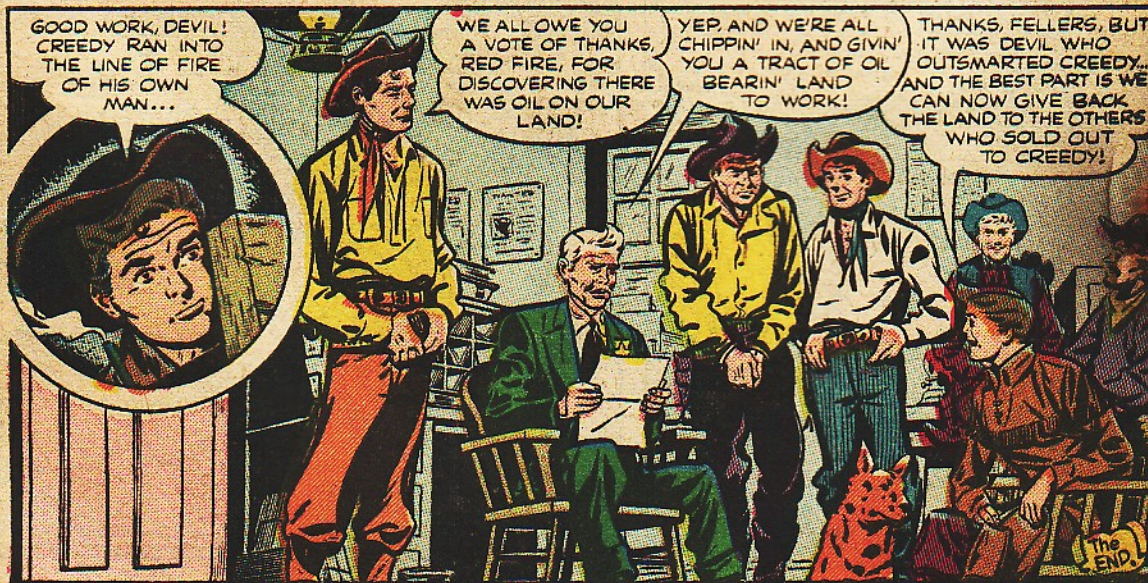
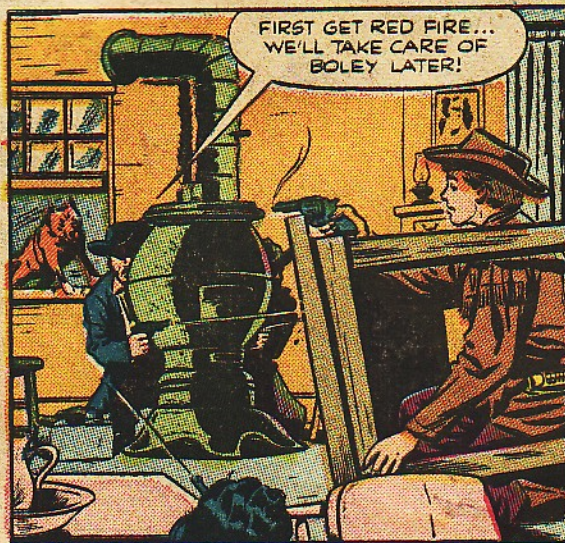




AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, THE CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCES...





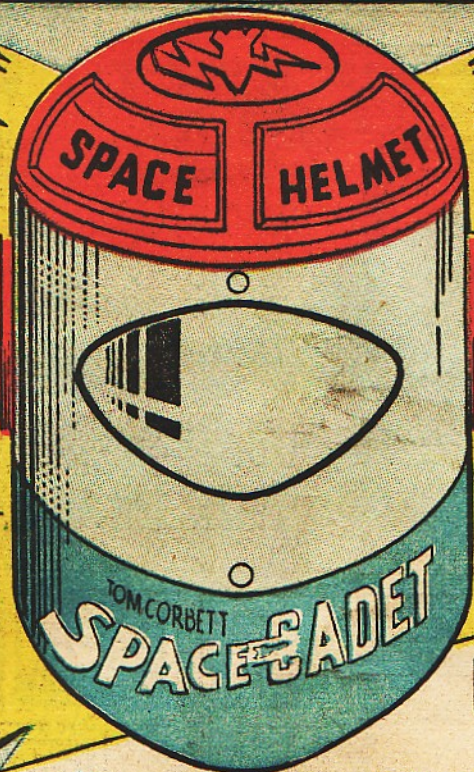


HAVE
FUN

IT'S LIKE
MAGIC

AMAZING

THRILLING



With This Great

Join The Space Parade INVISIBLE HELMET

Satisfaction guaranteed
or money back in five
days.

Be a Super Space Cadet! Nobody, but nobody
will be able to recognize you when you wear
this amazing Invisible Helmet. 'Cause when
people look at your face, they'll see only
their own reflection. But
YOU'LL be able to see them
and you'll be thrilled at every-
one's amazement! All this
excitement for only

\$1.98
Postpaid



Your Friends
Will Rave

Sorry, no COD's

Special Offer!

Look through this magazine
for other 3 FLAGS TRADING
CO. ads! You will find many
different, exciting things
you'll want to buy. Send in an
order totalling \$3 or more and
choose any ONE of the rings
shown here. IT WILL BE
OUR GIFT TO YOU!



3 Flags Trading corp.
114 E. 32nd St., New York 16, N.Y. Dep. H 2

Gentlemen: Please send me _____ Invisible Helmets. I enclose

Cash ☐ Check ☐ M.O. ☐ in the amount of \$_____

My order amounts to over \$3, please send me the following
gift ring:

Skull ☐ Horseshoe ☐ Snakes ☐ Solitaire ☐

NAME _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

LATEST CRAZE!

FOREIGN LEGION CAP



YOU WILL LOOK SHARP AS A TACK IN THIS DASHING FOREIGN LEGION CAP. BRIGHT RED WITH GLOSSY BLACK VISOR AND STRAP. REMOVABLE DESERT-WHITE NECKPIECE TO PROTECT THE NECK FROM THE SUN. SPECIFY HEADSIZE WHEN ORDERING. WITH EACH CAP YOU WILL RECEIVE FOUR FOREIGN LEGION PATCHES IN FLAMING COLORS - TWO EVEN GLOW IN THE DARK. A SENSATIONAL NEW IDEA - SEND TODAY!

\$1.98



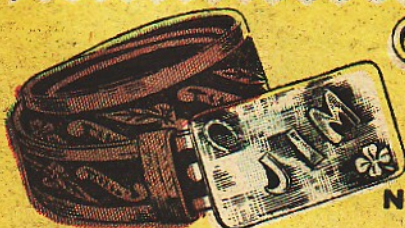
Magic

DISAPPEARING KEY



Show your friends this every-day door key and then, SWISH it disappears in thin air. A baffling trick no skill required.

only
50¢
postpaid



COWBOY BELT

WITH YOUR
NAME ON BUCKLE

Very high grade cowboy belt, top-grain heavy leather - beautifully tooled with finished pattern. 1 1/2" wide, beautiful four leaf clover - YOUR OWN NAME as shown above! Many names available. Sizes 22 to 44 - a big, BIG BARGAIN for \$2.98 Some say worth \$10.00 !!

AL - TOM - DAVE - ED - BOB
BARRY - JACK - FRED - MIKE
SAM - JOE - DICK - BILL - JIM
CHARLES - HENRY - FRANK
GEORGE - PETER - JOHN
AND MANY OTHERS

\$2.98

THREE FLAGS TRADING CORP.
114 E. 32nd Street, New York 16, N.Y.



PIXIE Magic CIGS STICK

"THEY SMOKE THEMSELVES"

BAFFLING! A little stick that looks like a match. Put it into any picture, light it - it will smoke itself, puff and blow smoke rings. What makes it work? Everybody will be amazed.

Package of 12 for

Satisfaction guaranteed
or money back in
five days.

50¢

THREE FLAGS TRADING CORP. DEPT. LG-2
114 E. 32nd St., New York 16, NY

Gentlemen: Please send me the following: I en-
close CHECK CASH M.O.

Legion Cap - Size \$1.98
MAGIC KEY 50¢
Cowboy Belt, name, size \$2.98
Pixie Cigarettes 50¢

Name
Address
City Zone State

SORRY, NO C.O.D.'s

Hi
Pal!
Win
\$100
as I
just
did!

Come on, Buddy, Quit being A BAG-of-BONES Weakling like I was
IN 10 MINUTES OF FUN A DAY **YOU Can do ALL I did!**

I gained **25 Terrific LBS. of HANDSOME POWER-PACKED MUSCLES** all over!
I improved my **HE-MAN LOOKS 1000%**
I won **NEW STRENGTH** for money-making work!
I won **NEW POPULARITY** for WINNING at all SPORTS!
New **WON FRIENDS, BOYS & GIRLS**
NEW CHANCES for BUSINESS SUCCESS



How did I do ALL This? I mailed the Coupon and got These **5** PICTURE-PACKED HE-MAN COURSES Which YOU can NOW get FREE BEFORE \$1 PRICE GOES BACK Millions Sold for \$1

YOU CAN WIN a BIG 15" SILVER CUP as I just did! with YOUR NAME engraved on it!



JIM NORMAN
AFTER

He Mailed Coupon Below is Cleveland

BEFORE

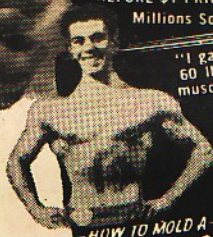
He Mailed Coupon



90 lb. Skeleton

He says, I gained 70 lbs. of mighty muscle

Mail the "ALL FREE" coupon get this "AMAZING SECRETS" Photo Book You'll LOOK, FEEL, ACT, like A Real HE-MAN! Win Women and Men Friends. Win in Sports! Win Promotion, Praise, Popularity.



"I gained 60 lbs. of muscles," says John Sill.

HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY CHEST By GEORGE F. JOWETT

"I added 7 inches to my CHEST 3 inches to each ARM," says Jobie Jackson

HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY ARM By GEORGE F. JOWETT

HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY BACK By GEORGE F. JOWETT

HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY GRIP By GEORGE F. JOWETT

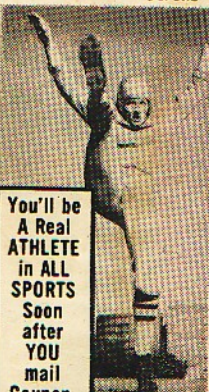
HOW TO MOLD MIGHTY LEGS By GEORGE F. JOWETT

AMAZING SECRETS HOW TO WIN MUSCLES LIKE IRON NERVES & STEEL WORLD'S GREATEST EXPERT TELLS YOU HOW YOU CAN BECOME AN ALL-AROUND HE-MAN IN 10 MINUTES A DAY PHOTO BOOK

GET ALL 5 FREE 1



"I'm PROUD to be seen with Jim NOW! Every-body admires his build," says Nellie. "Jim can lift the front of a 2700 lb. car. He amazes his friends!"



You'll be A Real ATHLETE in ALL SPORTS Soon after YOU mail Coupon. Jim is a WINNER in ALL SPORTS NOW. YOU will be, too, soon.

2

COME ON, PAL, NOW YOU give me 10 PLEASANT MINUTES A DAY IN YOUR OWN HOME like Jim did and I'll give YOU A NEW HE-MAN BODY for your OLD SKELETON FRAME

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are I'll make you OVER by the SAME method I turned myself from a wreck to the strongest of the strong. Why can't I do for you what I did for MANY THOUSANDS of skinny fellows like You?

"Congratulations, John! At last you mailed the coupon as EVERY MAN should. Soon You'll be as big and strong as I am," says Jim Norman to John Luckus

3

Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES Gain Pounds, INCHES FAST!

4

YES! You'll see INCHES of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to your ARMS and CHEST. Your BACK and SHOULDERS broadened. From head to heels you'll gain SIZE, POWER, SPEED. You'll be A WINNER in EVERYTHING you tackle.



5

LAST CHANCE-ALL FREE COUPON

1. FIVE COURSES 2. MUSCLE METER 3. Photo Book of STRONG MEN Dept. LG-312

Tell Me How To WIN \$100, etc.

Jowett Courses greatest in World for Building All-Around HE-MEN - R. F. Keller Physical Director

JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING 220 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 1, N. Y. Dear George: Please mail to me FREE Jowett's Photo Book of Strong Men and a Muscle Meter, plus all 5 HE-MAN Building Courses: 1. How to Build a Mighty Chest. 2. How to Build a Mighty Arm. 3. How to Build a Mighty Grip. 4. How to Build a Mighty Back. 5. How to Build Mighty Legs. Now all in One Volume "How to become a Mighty HE-MAN." ENCLOSED FIND 10c FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING (no C.O.D.'s)

NAME _____ AGE _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

Mail Coupon in Time for FREE offer and PRIZES!

SAVES you YEARS and DOLLARS!!!

This BOOK will also show You HOW YOU CAN WIN \$100.00 and a BIG 15" tall SILVER TROPHY (Your Name On It)

GET PRIZES.... MAKE MONEY

I want to give you your choice of a walkie-talkie, the 70 BIG PRIZES in my 28-page catalog. Many prizes are given without cost, including just one order of 48 packs of Vegetable and Flower Seeds at 10¢ per pack.



NEW, GOLDEN TRUMPET, GIVEN FOR SELLING ONE ORDER

"Uncle" Harry Bard, the man who has been helping boys and girls earn PRIZES and extra cash for 35 years.

BE FIRST IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Everybody wants American Seeds—they're fresh and ready to grow. You'll sell them quickly, to your family, friends and neighbors and get your prize at once. Thousands of boys and girls have been earning prizes this easy way for 35 years.

Paste coupon on postcard or mail in envelope for your order of American Seeds. When sold, send us the money and choose your prize. Or, keep \$1.60 in cash for each 48-pack order you sell. **SEND NO MONEY, I TRUST YOU.**

AMERICAN SEED CO.
Dept. 405, Lancaster, Pa.

MAIL THIS COUPON Today

AMERICAN SEED CO.

Please send me your BIG PRIZE BOOK and one order of 48 packs of Vegetable and Flower Seeds. I will mail them at 10¢ a pack, send you the money, and choose my prize.

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

State _____

JEAN, SEE THIS AD OF THE AMERICAN SEED CO. IT'S AN EASY WAY TO GET THAT CAMERA I WANT



YES, BOBBY WE NEED GARDEN SEEDS. I'LL BUY SIX PACKS



IT WAS FUN AND EASY TO SELL OUR SEEDS AND HERE'S THE MAILMAN WITH OUR PRIZES



THIS IS A NEAT CAMERA WHY DON'T YOU FELLOWS SEND THE COUPON TO-DAY- YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM 70 SWELL PRIZES!



I'll Give You a Watch, Air Rifle, Uke, Camera or Any of My 70 BIG PRIZES

Just for Selling American Seeds to your Family, Friends and Neighbors

Reflexion 70mm Skyline Set

Famous Ben Pearson make. Has a 54-inch hardwood box, 4 feathered arrows, target face, instructions. Sell one order of American Seeds plus 10¢.

DICK TRACY CAMERA

Camera has telescopic sight and fixed focus. Comes complete with carrying case. Sell one order.

BOYS! GIRLS! WRIST WATCHES

Gold-plated Girl's Bracelet Watch. Sell one order plus \$2.50. Boy's Radiation Dial Watch. Sell one order plus \$1.50.

JET PLANE

Attach wings, light fuse, away it goes. First 500 feet high. Given for selling just one order.

EXTRA \$1,500 IN GRAND PRIZE AWARD

1st Prize \$250
2nd Prize \$150
3rd Prize \$100

PLUS 20 DELUXE Schwinn BICYCLES

Win a Schwinn Bicycle

FULL SIZE UKELELE

ARTHUR GODFREY'S famous "push button" player. Both given plus 50¢.

GIRLS' OR LADIES' SHOULDER STRAP BAG

Available in Red, Green, Navy Blue or Brown. Sell one order.

JUNIOR SPORTS KIT

Complete kit for younger boys and girls. Basketball, baseball, football, whistle! Sell one order.

ELECTRONIC WALKIE TALKIE

Rennet's complete 2-way talking system. Just string out the wire and start talking. No batteries needed. Sell one order of American Seeds.

HEY FELLOWS! DAISY'S RED RIDER COWBOY CARBINE

A fast-shooting 800 shot Air Rifle. Sell one order plus \$2.00.

MAIL THIS COUPON... SELL AMERICAN SEEDS AND EARN PRIZES LIKE THESE